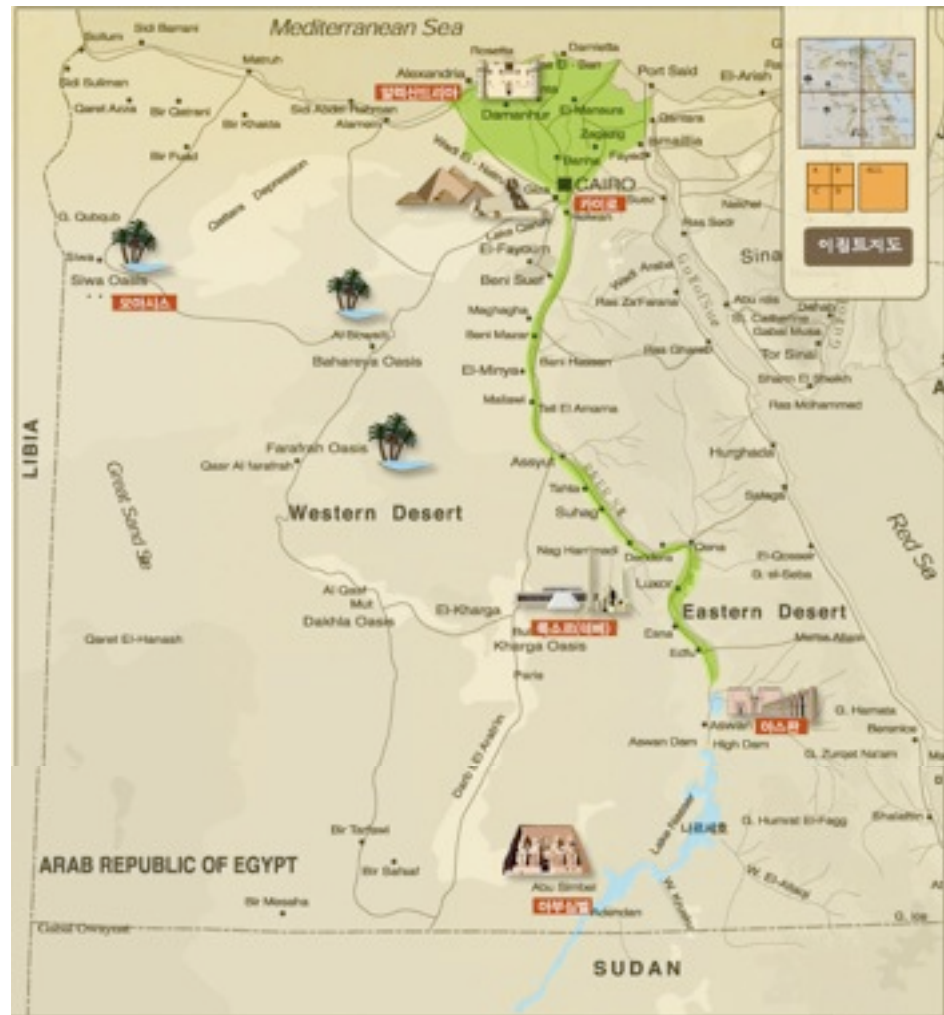




Egypt 2010

salaam' alaykum, Egypt!

I was given with \$4,000 to travel anywhere I could in Middle East and North Africa. Where could I go? I pondered and pondered, until I thought about a place between North Africa and Middle East, Egypt. Egypt, not an easy place to travel; but if I think about those pharaohs, jewelries, pyramids, temples and even mummies, I become so intrigued and excited. I never personally researched about Egypt nor did I ever have close interaction with the country; however, those famous cultures and architectures of Egypt were very familiar to me. Ignoring Burj al-Arab in United Arab Emirates, I decided to go to Egypt, a fantastic place to travel. But wait, when can I start?



Friday, January 1 - Starting my journey

Regarding climate of Egypt, today's the best day to start my trip to Egypt. The climate of Egypt varies a lot from January to December, and it is very important for me to choose when to go. This is the chart of Egypt's climate:

CLIMATE

Egypt experiences hot, dry summers with mild, dry winters. Rainfall is negligible. During the winter months (Dec-Feb) it can get chilly in the evening and early morning.

| Month | Luxor | | Aswan | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Average Max Temperature | Average Min Temperature | Average Max Temperature | Average Min Temperature |
| Jan | 22 | 6 | 23 | 9 |
| Feb | 24 | 7 | 24 | 10 |
| Mar | 28 | 11 | 28 | 13 |
| Apr | 34 | 16 | 35 | 19 |
| May | 38 | 21 | 39 | 23 |
| June | 40 | 22 | 41 | 25 |
| Jul | 41 | 24 | 41 | 27 |
| Aug | 40 | 24 | 41 | 27 |
| Sep | 39 | 22 | 40 | 25 |
| Oct | 34 | 18 | 35 | 21 |
| Nov | 28 | 11 | 28 | 15 |
| Dec | 23 | 6 | 23 | 10 |

Source:

Temperatures are in Degrees Centigrade

If I go to Egypt on June or July, I would be burned to death (41°C? ...forget it). But if I go to Egypt on January, it has 22° C, which is bearable for me. And I wanted to start on the first day of 2010 with refreshing minds for my first solo-journey.

Anyways, I woke up early in to morning, and greeted my families with "Happy New Year!" I ate 'Ddukgook' to get 1 year older. Nothing special happened until noon, when I realized I should start packing. Since I am going to be there at least for two weeks, I packed plenty number of summer-clothes which were stored in my family's

warehouse. I took one light-jacket in case the temperature falls down to 6°C. After packing 30 socks, little bit of kimchi, a camera, and my passport; I double-checked what's missing. It was only then when I realized I was going to a really hot and sunny place. I packed sunglasses, a cowboy hat that is really useful for covering my face from sun, a sunblock, a water bottle, a flip-flop, few anti-indigestion tablets, a map of Egypt, telephone card to call my family, bug repellent, and finally, my precious \$4,000 safely stored inside my deepest side of my bag.

Yooray! Arrived in Incheon airport!

With the plane ticket that was booked few weeks ago, I boarded on plane to Egypt. Plane left Incheon at 6:10 p.m., and arrived in Beijing at 7:20 p.m. Nothing special happened, except Asiana offered me a Bibimbab during the flight. In Beijing, I did absolutely nothing. The first day of my grand trip slowly passed away.

Saturday, January 2 - Starting my journey 2

I boarded on my plane at 12:00 a.m., and I met this girl from Egypt sitting next to me. Her name was Tehenout, and she had very Egyptian-like perfume emitted from her clothes (plane left at 12:30 a.m.). She was happy to tell me about Egypt; she said every Egyptians are proud to be born in Egypt. I realized they have very strong pride in their national identity. Anyways, I asked her questions like "who is the president of Egypt?" (Muhammad Hosni Mubarak), "How many pharaohs were there in history?" (24), "Does women have to cover all their skin like in Saudi Arabia?" (not really, but some people do), "What kind of information would you give me for my trip to Egypt?" (Baksheesh, which is tip in Egyptian. Whenever you can tip, tip people with small Egyptian pounds; otherwise, people wouldn't be so nice to you any longer).

5:50 a.m., I arrived at Cairo, and I was exhausted from my 8449 km-long trip. I bought my visa, paying \$15, and changed my \$1,000 to E£5460. I was happy and excited to see Egypt with my own eyes for the first time in my life until I reached the exit



gate; Egypt of my imagination was far from reality. I always imagined proud people of Egypt, and luxurious clothing and style; however, I was wrong. The GDP of Egypt is, and in the history, 99% of Egyptian were illiterate, and the fabulous hieroglyphic was created and used only by upper 1% of Egyptian. Those imagination of Egyptian pride and strength collapsed as soon as I saw those begging people. I was standing shocked in confusion, when Tehenout approached me. She said it's common in the airport, and if I go to Central Cairo, it would be different. That was true; as I got a taxi for E£5 to go to Egyptian Museum, I could see people who looked proud, strong, and happy; more satisfying my images of them. She

recommended Pension Roma for my place to sleep. She gave me the address of it, then left.

When I arrived there, I could feel it at once. The atmosphere was different. The moment I stepped into the place, I could feel the treasures of Tutankhamun, mummies, jewellery, and hieroglyphics.

The Egyptian Museum is one of the world's most important museums of ancient history and one of its great spectacles. It was built by a French archaeologist called Auguste Mariette; the museum had somewhat French-like atmosphere.

Since there are so many valuable objects in the museum, I had to pass through a metal detector and have my bags X-rayed. Then I bought a student-ticket for £125. I wanted to take photos of those objects in the museum, but I was forced to leave my bags, cameras and others.



Seeing the museum exhibits wasn't my favorite thing to do; I was always bored when I was in other museums. But this museum was different; those exhibits had a story coming out, and I was so intrigued in each of them. Here are the exhibits I enjoyed:

- *Tutankhamun Galleries:* This gallery had the treasures of the young New Kingdom pharaoh, Tutankhamun.



He ruled Egypt only for nine years (1336-1327BC). His treasure was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings. About 1,700 items are spread throughout a series of rooms.

- *Old Kingdom Rooms:*

The monuments from Old Kingdom Egypt. Pharaohs from Old Kingdom Egypt have their objects, statues, and personal items exhibited in this room.

- Amarna Room: This room has a very famous artifact, the unfinished head of Nefertiti, an incredibly delicate portrait of a extremely beautiful queen. This room's items mostly consists of Akhenaten (1352-1336 BC)'s objects.*
- Royal Tombs of Tanis*
- Royal Mummy Room: I had to pay extra £150 for this room; and it was worth-it! It had numerous mummies exhibited. Those mummies are not normal mummies; they were pharaohs of Egypt. I was warned to never whisper in this room, because Egyptians believe it will wake the mummies up. Anyways, it was worth-it to pay extra pounds for this room.*
- Graeco-Roman Mummies: These mummies are painted mummies with artistic minds, and they are not pharaohs.*
- Ancient Egyptian Jewellery: Beautiful, magnificent jewels exhibited in this room.*
- Animal Mummies*



After watching all those things, I was so exhausted, and it was only then when I realized I hadn't eaten lunch yet, and it was already getting dark.

I wandered around downtown, smelling foods being cooked from various places. I was extremely hungry; I was so hungry that I went to a local Egyptian restaurant called At-Tabei ad-Dumyati that didn't look very safe and respectable. Normally, I wouldn't have gone there because I have my 'standard' where to eat and where not to eat. I ordered some traditional food called Kofta. The menu had an English

description of kofta, "it is a meat of lamp," which I guessed it to be a lamb meat. I was half-expecting a horrible food, when the server gave me the dish. The food looked like meatballs with pine nuts and tomato sauce. It was so good that I didn't even need any kimchi to eat them. I am not joking, but I would say it was one of the



best food I ever tasted; I couldn't swallow the meat, because the meat melted itself in my mouth. I devoured all of them at once, then ordered tabbouleh that didn't have any english description. It was salad that was offered to me; bulgur wheat, parsley and tomato, with a sprinkling of sesame seeds, and lemon and garlic was what it was. Again, it tasted wonderful, then I finished my dinner with a bottle of water. I was afraid to ask how much it

was because I had so much fun eating the food; I was afraid it would be too expensive. Fortunately, the cook only asked me for EL30. I gave EL1 baksheesh (tip) to the server, and happily left the restaurant.

Then I went to Pension Roma, a recommended place from Tehenout. The pension was run by a French-Egyptian woman. I couldn't believe that this pension only costed EL50 without bathroom, and EL82 with bathroom (I chose a room with a bathroom because I desperately needed one). The room was not of luxury, but it had cozy, old Cairo-like atmosphere that I thought it was better than luxurious hotels. I talked with the owner of the pension, and got some useful information. She advised that the kind of restaurant I visited few hours back for dinner would only

cost EL15-EL20, that paying EL30 was a little too expensive. She introduced some places to go in downtown like Khan al-Khalili, a biggest market in Cairo.

After some chit-chat with the owner, I went back to my room, unpacked myself from those heavy loads, then fell a sleep. My first day in Egypt had finally ended.

Sunday, January 3 - Shopping in downtown

I woke up at 10:00 p.m.. It was Sunday, and I felt extremely

lazy to get up. I had my brunch in

the pension, and went to Khan al-

Khalili without my heavy bags and

stuffs. On my walk to the market,

I found McDonald in the street. I

felt quaint, because that brand is everywhere. Anyways, I

arrived at Khan al-Khalili. I ate fuul and ta'amiyya, quick

snacks that could be found in the market.

I bought souvenir T-shirt, some traditional papyrus

scrolls, obligatory hookah (tobacco pipe, and of course,

it will be given to my dad). I had really hard time

communicating with locals because the only Egyptian I

knew was 'salaam' alaykum (hello)', 'ma'is salaama

(goodbye)', 'low samatt/samatttee (to man/ woman)',

'shukran (thank you)', 'afwan (you're welcome)'. I had to write down numbers for

bargains, and obviously wasn't very successful; I paid EL500 for today's shopping,



and I knew it is way too much. I ate dinner in a good restaurant (ate a beef-steak),
and I gave a baksheesh to the waiter.

Anyways, I went back to pension, tired from my all-day-long shopping. I researched
some useful words from the internet (the pension had internet access) like:

Momareda

Help me

Tawari'

Police

Bint

My friend

Merrat/ merrati

Man

Raggil

Woman

ana

You (single)

inta (m)/ inti (f)

You (plural)

Intu/ Intum

He

Huwa

She

Heya

We

Ihna

They

Homa

This / That

Da (m)/ Dih (f)

Those

Innaharda billil

Tomorrow

bukkra

Day after tomorrow

ba'd bukra

Yesterday

Imbaarih

Morning

Issubh

Afternoon/ Evening

Ba'd id-duhr

Evening/ night

Bil-leel

On time

Fi-l-ma'ad

(One) o'clock

Is-ssa'a (wahda)

Half past one

Wahda wi nuss

One fifteen

Wahda wi rub'

One forty five

I spent my evening studying the words, with some pronunciation support taught by the pension owner. Before I went to sleep, accessed internet to spend some time doing Facebook. I was able to chat with Zaid Itum, and friend from Jordan whom I interviewed for my World Geography project. He was amazed that I am at Egypt, and that he might be able to meet me at Luxor. I got his phone number, and then, I finished my second day in Egypt...

Monday, January 4 - To Giza Pyramids!

I woke up early in the morning. The owner kindly gave me a snack for breakfast for free. I left my luggage in the pension, and left to hire a camel for EL40. I was happy to have it EL10 discounted with my newly learned vocabularies.

I used my camel to go to Dahshur, about 10km south of Saggara. It is a small desert that could be accessed only if I pay EL15. This desert has 3.5km-long field of 4th- and 12th-dynasty pyramids. It wasn't as comfortable to be on the camel as I expected, but it was quite good to just do nothing but watching passing scenes of desert on the camel; I watched Bent Pyramid, Red Pyramid, and Black Pyramid on my way.



photos of dahshur and camel.

Then, I quickened my camel to go to Pyramids of Giza, one of the most famous site for Wonders of the World. This place maintained it's title for more than 4000 years.



In this place I learned that labors who worked to build these wondrous pyramids were not slaves, but rather highly organized workforce, who were paid. I visited the Great Pyramid of Khufu, a 137m-high structure with 2.3 million limestone blocks. Can you imagine it? I just

can't imagine it. Anyways, I was one of the lucky 3005 who were permitted to enter the pyramid (only 300 people per day are allowed in the pyramid). To be honest, there wasn't much to see inside the pyramid, but the experience of climbing through the ancient structure was unforgettable. There were King's Chamber, Great Gallery, Queen's Chamber, and other rooms that emitted scary ora.

Then I visited the Pyramid of Khafre, it seems larger than the previous pyramid, but it is actually m lower than the Great Pyramid of Khufu. It looks like it's higher because it was built in the higher ground and its peak is still capped with a limestone casing.

After that, I went to the final pyramid, the Pyramid of Menkaure, which had excavated remains of Menkaure's funerary temple, and his valley temple. This pyramid is smallest of the trio (62m), but this one was the scariest pyramid.

On the way out, I briefly looked at Sphinx, the mystery animal that is known to be keeping those three pyramids. The Sphinx narrates sound-and-light show, and literally, it's sound and light show!



I was exhausted again from my long-long trip to the Pyramids of Giza, so I went to Ahwa, a Egyptian café. I drank karkadai (a wonderfully refreshing drink boiled up from hibiscus leaves; limoon (lemon juice); zabaady (traditional egyptian yogurt drink); sahlab, a warm drink made with semolina powder, which is preferred in winter. All of them, I drank slowly, studying what local Egyptians are doing, and how they behave. I noticed that most of them cover their legs, and that I was one of the few who exposed their knees. Also, I noticed that some girls in Egypt cover their whole skin, just like in Saudi-Arabia. I paid for those drinks.

I went back to my pension, packed my stuff, and said farewell to the kind owner. I gave her EL50 for baksheesh for her kindness.

It was time to leave Cairo, a very attractive city. It was time to depart to a new destination, to Luxor. I took 10-hour long train ride, paying \$6 for 2nd class ticket. My third day, and the final day in Cairo faded away...



Tuesday, January 5 - New destination, Luxor

I arrived in Luxor at 8:00a.m.. The city of Luxor, the ancient necropolis of Thebes... However, the train was so awful, I shouldn't have chosen 2nd class ride.... I was going to head over to the West Bank, but instead, I headed over to Old Winter Palace Hotel And New Winter Palace Hotel. This hotel is far from cheap, cozy place. It is a very expensive hotel, and it costed \$150 for a night. However, I still wanted it because I now wanted some luxury; I no longer want 2nd-class-train-like place to sleep. I unpacked my stuff, and had a breakfast buffet for £181 as a brunch. I took a brief nap, swam and relaxed in a luxurious swimming-pool. I turned on computer in my room, and chatted with Zaid Itum again. He said he's going to be in Luxor tomorrow, and that he would travel with me in Luxor. One good, a very good news is that his grandparents live here at Luxor, and that I could home-stay in the place with him. I was glad to hear that.

I relaxed in the hotel, spend another £200 for heavy dinner (I had a lobster!).

Overall, I had a fancy day today, and I'm so happy writing this part down right now. I'm going to meet Zaid tomorrow. Okay, today's done.

Wednesday, January 5 - With Zaid! To Luxor!

The first thing I did after waking up was getting dressed up and departing to Luxor Airport. As soon as I arrived, I saw Zaid waving at me. We had breakfast in a restaurant called Sofra. I payed for Zaid, which made me to pay £150. I could watch beautiful, and rather grand River of Nile while eating in there. We talked about how our life was, and shared current events of each of our own society.

We then moved on to West Bank, the place I was supposed to have visited by yesterday. We rented a felucca (a small boat) for an two hours. We travelled around

Luxor through Nile Valley. It was amazing to see people use the river to survive; the river provided locals water, and places to wash.



It was interesting to learn that River of Nile flooded annually, at a predictable time.

We stopped at the Valleys of the Kings to see Tutmosis III, Amenhotep II, and Horemheb. I could perceive those tombs were meant to be concealed because I could find some camouflages.

I then walked down to the Valley of the Queens to see Amunherkhepshef. There were also tombs of the Nobles of Nakht, Sennofer, and Ramose. I and Zaid visited Deir al-Bahri (Hatshepsut's memorial temple) to see how she lived.

Since this walk wasn't as interesting as it was in the Egyptian Museum, we moved quickly back to our felucca. We had our lunch in the Nile Valley Hotel. We were hungry and spent E£70 for the lunch there. In the restaurant, I realized how the Egyptian foods



were generally delicious.

Then we went to Zaid's grandparents' house for home-stay. The place was so cozy and comfortable I wanted to stay there for years. I could experience new Egyptian foods that are home-made, and trust me, they are much much better than those in the restaurants. I would miss these Egyptian foods. I ate kofta and kebab (meat), then tabbouleh (bulgar wheat, parsley and tomato, with a sprinkling of sesame seeds, lemon and garlic). I was suggested not to use my left hand while eating with Egyptians because left hand is used to wipe myself while in absence of toiletry.

I went to bed, fully satisfied with the treats I had in the house. I'm planning to buy some more souvenirs tomorrow with Zaid. Egypt has been so far so good.

Thursday, January 6 - Shopping in Luxor

I slept until really late today. When I woke up, the grandma was cooking lunch. I had my lunch and left to downtown in Luxor for shopping. I bought silver plates for decoration of my house.

I also bought a personalized Egyptian cup that has my name on in Hieroglyphics.

I bought another papyrus painting.

Shopping with Zaid helped me reduce the cost of buying those



souvenirs significantly, for I only paid EL300 for those items.

We went back to Zaid's grandparents' house and rested there. We played chess, played a video game, and watched a movie.

If I were to follow my plan, I should already have left the house for the overnight train to Aswan. But farewell with Zaid and his family wasn't as easy as the farewell with the pension owner at Cairo. I decided to stay few days in the house.

Friday, January 7 -Learning Egypt with locals

Today, I didn't do much of traveling. I just stayed at home, chilled down, and rested. I learned some tips to follow when I go to Aswan because there are lots of scams. I learned how to cook kofta and kebab from Zaid's grandma. It was quite easy to follow, but it required some time to cook; it was slow-food, as opposed to fast-food. I learned some more of useful Egyptian language. Basically, that's all I did today.

Saturday, January 8 -Learning Egypt with locals 2

Today, I learned how to cook omm ali (popular dessert, layers of pastry filled with nuts and raisins, soaked in cream and milk, and baked in the oven), and molokhiya, a green leafy vegetable, known as a mallow. Maybe I could cook it for my parents when I get back to Korea.

I introduced kimchi to Zaid and his grandparents. They liked it very much; they said it would be perfect to eat it with kebab. So that's what we ate for today's dinner with kimchi. I was happy to see them enjoying kimchi.

Sunday, January 9 -Last day in Zaid's house

I said good-bye to my good friend, Zaid Itum, who had kindly come over to Egypt to guide me. I also thanked Zaid's grandparents for their kindness.

Zaid took me to the Felucca station, and we said our final goodbye, then I was on my own. I boarded on Felucca to Aswan for EL50, and relaxed. The ship itself wasn't that bad; I could endure it. But the people boarded with me were horrible people. They had no etiquette; but fortunately, the captain of the ship had some control over those people and prevented them from doing much more horrible thing. As a result, my journey to Aswan in the Felucca passed, in a way peacefully.

Monday, January 10 - To Aswan, to Aswan!

Boring hours passed while in the boat. I did nothing but watched passing scenes in the boat. Morning came, and I realized the boat was almost to the shore of Aswan. I looked around Aswan, and I felt different atmosphere from that of Cairo and Luxor. It was Southern part of Egypt, and the atmosphere in terms of climate and people were different! I could feel it! The types of vegetation were different; just basically everything was different between Luxor/Cairo and Aswan.

Anyways, I was hungry, so I went to Aswan market. I ordered kebab in a local restaurant, that tasted just as good as the one I ate before. I also ate omm ali (popular dessert, layers of pastry filled with nuts and raisins, soaked in cream and milk, and baked in the oven), and molokhiya, a green leafy vegetable (mallow).

I was so full that I sat in the restaurant doing nothing until I felt better. In the market, there were new sorts of souvenirs that I did not see in Khan al-khalili or Luxor Market, and they were mini statues of ancient pharaohs. I bought a few of them.

Having done with shopping at Aswan, I moved on to my next destination, Abu Simbel, one of the most famous tourist-visiting site in Egypt, and the grandest of all Pharaonic monuments.

The village of Abu Simbel lies 280km south of Aswan and only 40km north of the Sudanese border. And foreigners traveling from Aswan to Abu Simbel by road must travel in police convoy. I didn't want policemen following me, so I just took a bus to Abu Simbel at 4:00 p.m.

Night fell on as the bus drove to Abu Simbel, and it was beautiful scene to see dusk in desert.

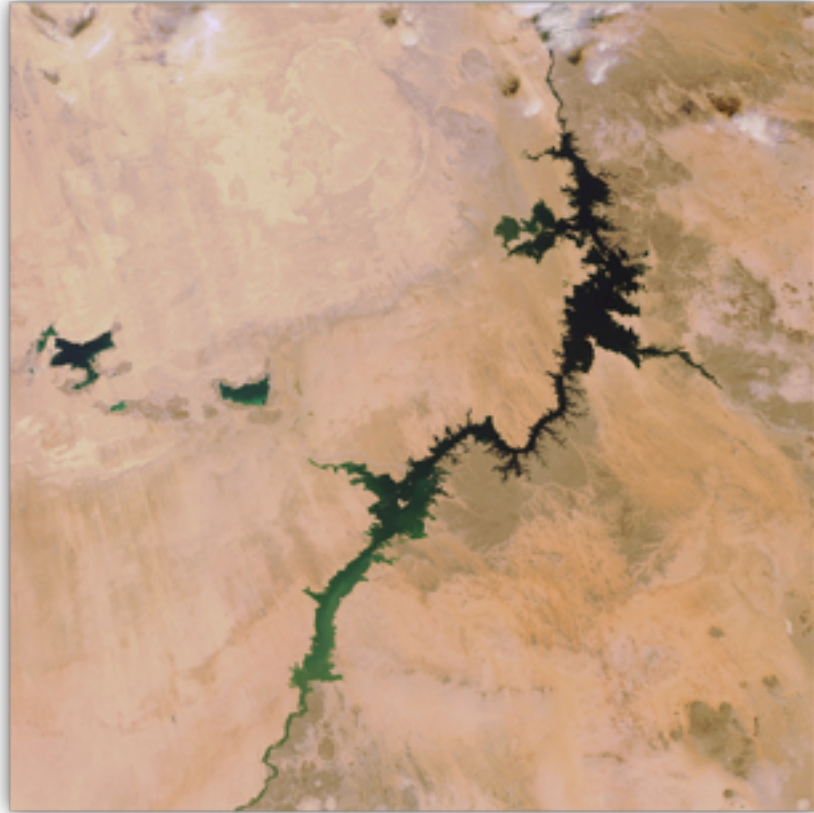
I arrived at a small hotel called Eskaleh. The hotel is run by Nubian women, and the hotel itself is decorated in Nubian style; there were Nubian musics coming out from speakers, Nubian style bathroom, room, and bed. It was very new to me, and I was more than happy to experience new things. I paid E150 for home-cooked dinner by those Nubian owners; the dinner was good.

I was so tired from the trip I had today, that I fell asleep immediately I fell on bed after dinner (wrote this diary the next day).

Tuesday, January 11 - What happened in Abu Simbel

The Nubian owners didn't bother to wake me up, so it was almost noon when I woke up. I didn't care much though. I paid another E150 for the deliciously home-

cooked lunch. The Nubian owners recommended me to have a light jogging to Lake Nasser.



When I got there, I couldn't believe that it lake could be this big. The same awe that I had seeing Great Pyramids at Cairo revived at this moment. The lake has an area of 5250 sq km, and 510km long. I could see several species of birds flying all over the Lake Nasser. I had a relaxing time there, and went back to the hotel. After dinner, I used internet in the hotel. Then, I slept.

photo



Wednesday, January 12 - What happened in Abu Simbel 2

photo

As soon as I finished breakfast, I headed over to the Temples of Abu Simbel. The temple had Great temple of Ramses II, which is carved out of the mountain on the west bank of the Nile between 1274 and 1244 BC. It has 4 figures that are pharaoh's colossal statues fronting the temple are like gigantic sentinels watching over the incoming traffic from the south, undoubtedly designed as a warning of the strength of the pharaoh. I took photos to show my friends and parents to prove that I had been here.

It was getting dark when I headed back to my hotel. I talked to some strangers, then I slept.

Wednesday, January 13 - Moving back

This day, I dedicated whole day in walking through the desert. I started walking from Abu Simbel to Aswan. A police car conveyed me, but they didn't bother me much. I walked, walked, and walked, and finally reached Aswan. I was exhausted from the day-long walk. It was really hot in the desert; however, it was a good experience. I got a hotel called Keylany Hotel, and I'm going to sleep right after I finish writing this diary...

Thursday, January 14 - Moving back 2

Basically, I went to all the places I wanted to go. In compensation of my thrifty throughout the trip, I have so much money left. I planned to use the money luxuriously. I am going to have a extravagant life for few days.

I decided to board on cruises to go to Luxor. I chose a cruise named M/S Shehrazad, which costs \$960 for four-night-long sail.

January 14-18 - My life in the cruise

I'm going to merge this cruise-based story into one. The cruise was fantastic. I never enjoyed this kind of luxury in my life. This boat has my private room, pools, bars, and other five-star amenities. I can enjoy the outside view from my private room. The foods offered to me was marvelous; there were seafoods from Alexandria (a famous place for seafood in Egypt), all kinds of luxurious Egyptian foods that I could not get from locals, and fancy desserts served after each meal. Musicians hired to play music in the cruise played music for us every time we ate. I swam from time to time to cool off the heat of Egypt. I couldn't drink alcohols in the bar since I am a student, but I could order some luxurious juices. Overall, this four-night experience at the cruise M/S Shehrazad was a fantastic experience and I would never forget it.

photo of the cruise



Tuesday, January 19 - Moving back 3

Now I'm in Luxor. I'm to move back to Cairo. I took that 10-hour long train again, but this time going from Luxor to Cairo. I got on the train, this time I payed \$25 to get the first-class ticket; the second-class train was so horrible

photo



Wednesday, January 20 - Moving back 4

It was starting to get dark when I arrived at Cairo. Although the first-class train was hundred times better than the second-class, I was very tired. I went back to Pension Roma, the place I slept 2 weeks ago when I first arrived in Egypt. That French-Egyptian woman greeted me, and I talked about my journey. She listened to me carefully, and I told everything that happened during my trip enthusiastically.

I am not going to spend any more of dollars anymore, since I need them for the flight going back to Seoul. However, I still have EL2872 left in my bag. I decided to stay in Pension Roma until I use the whole Egyptian pound up. I need to pay EL100 for breakfast, lunch and dinner per day, plus EL82 for sleeping; I need EL182 per day. I could stay in this pension for two more weeks.

January 20- February 3 - My two weeks in Pension Roma

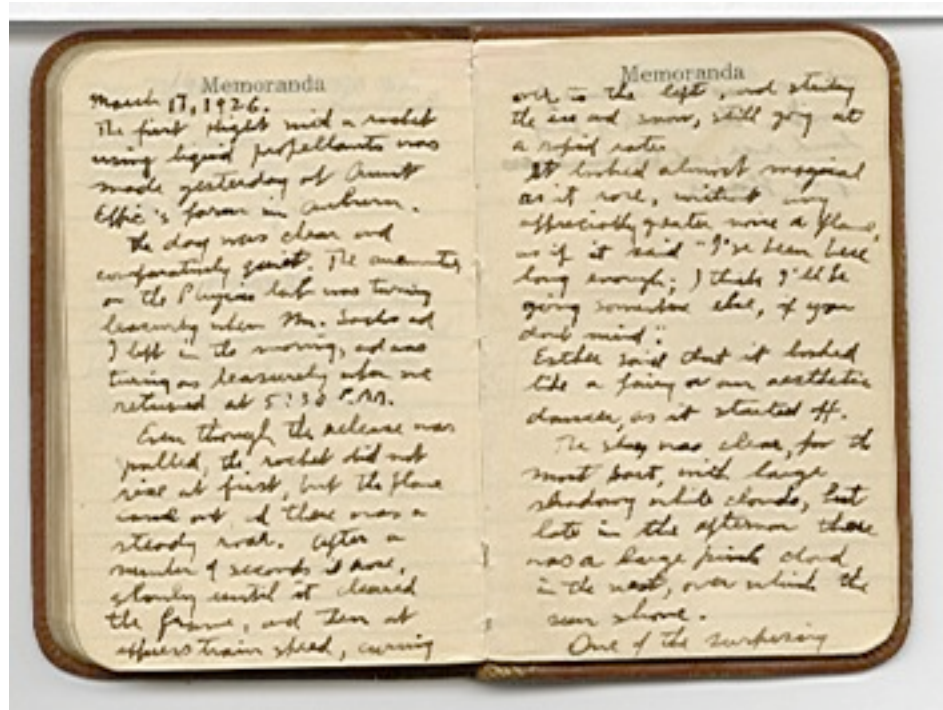
What did I do during these two weeks? I read books about Egyptian history that is so profound to describe in this diary. I booked a flight for February 4th to go to Seoul. I learned to speak more Egyptians, quite professionally that I am now capable of communicating with a local Egyptian. I taught the pension owner how to make kimchi, and in return, she taught me how to make omm ali. During those two weeks, I edited this diary to make my trip to Egypt memorable.

February 4 -Going back

I went to Cairo Airport. I distributed all my remaining Egyptian pounds to the beggars in front of the airport. I boarded on the plane, and left Egypt.

It had been a month since I first came to Egypt. It can be a long time, but it felt as though I stayed in Egypt only for few days. There are still some places I had not visited, so I will come back to Egypt someday later. I don't regret that I chose Egypt as my trip destination; but rather, I think any other country couldn't have been

better than Egypt. I would be glad to see myself in the future, reading this diary in great amusement; that's why I wrote this diary for.



The End